# AVATAR

The Last Airbender

BOOK TWO: EARTH
CHAPTER THREE: "Return to Omashu"

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## ACT I

**PREVIOUSLY ON “AVATAR”:**

[Aang plans to learn Earthbending from King Bumi. They need to get to Omashu. They arrive and discover it’s occupied by the Fire Nation.]

**EXT. HILLSIDE OUTSIDE OMASHU - DAY**

We begin where we left off last episode: The gang has stopped to observe the altered skyline of Omashu -- a tangle of cranes and scaffolding projecting skyward in a mountainous mass, crowned with black smoke from huge stacks. The Fire Nation is renovating and retrofitting Omashu. Aang and Katara see LARGE METAL EXTENDING BRIDGES, engineering miracles, spanning the deep gorge surrounding the city. A Fire Nation flag hangs over the side of a wall. Aang looks devastated.

AANG
I can’t believe it. I know the war has spread far, but Omashu always seemed... untouchable.

SOKKA
Up until now it was. Now Ba Sing Se is the only great Earth Kingdom stronghold left.

Katara moves next to Aang to comfort him.

KATARA
This is horrible.
(beat)
But we have to move on.

AANG
No.

He walks toward Omashu. Sokka and Katara start after him.

AANG (cont’d)
I’m going in to find Bumi.

SOKKA
Aang, stop. We don’t even know if Bumi’s still...

Sokka searches for a euphemism for “alive.” Aang stops.

AANG
What? If he’s still what?

SOKKA
(back-pedalling)
...around.

KATARA
I know you had your heart set on Bumi, but there are other people who can teach you Earthbending.

AANG
This isn't about finding a teacher. This is about finding my friend.

**EXT. BOTTOM OF GORGE - DAY**

At the bottom of the gorge, Aang loosens a grate.

SOKKA
A secret passage?! Why didn't we just use this last time?

Aang removes the grate, and stinky filth pours out. It's horrible. Everyone gags.

AANG
Does that answer your question?

Aang crawls into the sewer. Katara and Sokka hesitate and hold their noses before entering.

**INT. OMASHU SEWER SYSTEM - DAY**

22 The gang walks through a dark, dank, echoey sewer tunnel. 22

**INT. WATERFALL OF FILTH - MOMENTS LATER**

We see that Aang is using Airbending to form a protective bubble around him so the filth doesn't touch him.

We see that Katara is using Waterbending to divert the filth from her path.

We see Sokka helplessly being splattered in filth as he climbs through the waterfall.

SOKKA
(GROSSED OUT NOISE MIXED WITH GARGLING)

**EXT. STREET IN OMASHU - EVENING**

It's sunset as a manhole cover pops up, slides over, and the gang climbs out. Aang and Katara come out looking clean.

KATARA
That wasn't as bad as I thought.

Then Sokka emerges, nearly unrecognizably covered in filth.

SOKKA
(GROANING)

Katara Waterbends water from a nearby rain barrel, washing the filth off Sokka and revealing several PURPLE PENTAPI (five-eyed, five-tentacled, little octopus-like creatures) stuck to his head and neck. He tries to wipe the creatures off his neck, but they won't budge.

SOKKA (cont'd)
AAGH! They won't let go. Help!

Sokka hops around in a panic.

AANG
Shh! Stop making so much noise. It's just a Purple Pentapus.

Sokka is still as Aang peels them off. They leave round, red SUCKER MARKS on Sokka's skin.

A group of Fire Nation soldiers round the corner. The soldiers approach the gang menacingly.

SOLDIER #1
Hey! What are you kids doing out past curfew?

Aang quickly puts a pentapus on top of his head like a bonnet to cover his tattoo and puts his hands behind his back. The kids all put on big, fake, innocent smiles.

KATARA
Sorry. We were just on our way home.

They turn to leave, but a soldier notices Sokka's marks.

SOLDIER #1
Wait! What's the matter with him?

The gang looks at each other -- are they busted?

KATARA
(thinking quickly)
He has "Pentapox," Sir.

She sees the other soldiers come closer for a better look.

KATARA (cont'd)
Umm... it's highly contagious.

SOKKA
(agonized moaning)
It's so awful! I'm dying.

KATARA
And deadly.

The soldiers back away, horrified.

SOLDIER #1
Hey, I think I've heard of Pentapox. Didn't your cousin Chang die of it?

SOLDIER #2
We'd better go wash our hands.

SOLDIER #1
And burn our clothes!

They run away. Aang peels his Pentapus from his head -- again it leaves sucker marks.

AANG
Thank you, sewer friend.

**EXT. SHORELINE - SUNSET**

We see Azula's massive procession. Her ship and a few others are docked and there is an encampment set up on the shoreline.

**EXT. AZULA'S SHIP - DECK - CONTINUOUS**

Azula sits in shadow in her palanquin. Lo and Li stand in front of her.

LO
When tracking your brother and uncle, traveling with the Royal Procession may no longer be an option --

LI
May no longer be wise --

LO AND LI
-- if you hope to keep the element of surprise.

Lo and Li nod in agreement with one another.

AZULA
You're right. The royal procession is dead weight. If I want to catch my prey, I must be agile, nimble...
(beat)
I need a small, elite team. It's time to visit some old friends.

**EXT. OMASHU STREET - NIGHT**

The kids carefully sneak through the empty city streets, wearing hooded cloaks. Everything is eerily quiet and abandoned due to the curfew.

KATARA
Let's find Bumi and get out of here.

SOKKA
Where would they be keeping him?

AANG
Somewhere he can't Earthbend -- somewhere made of metal.

They look around to see the vast metal construction and structures that the Fire Nation has built -- Bumi could be anywhere. Suddenly, they hear footsteps and see torch lights coming around the corner. They quickly duck out of sight.

The occupying Fire Nation GOVERNOR'S WIFE, his toddler son, TOM TOM, and his daughter, MAI (PRON: May) -- a pale, depressed-looking goth teen -- take their evening's constitutional through the empty streets of Omashu, escorted by several Fire Nation guards.

MAI
There really is no fathoming the depths of my hatred for this place.

GOVERNOR'S WIFE
Mai, your father was appointed governor. We're like royalty here. Be happy and enjoy it!

**EXT. OMASHU MAIL SYSTEM - THAT MOMENT**

A few shadowy RESISTANCE FIGURES conspire. From where they are they can see Mai and her mother approaching on the streets below.

RESISTANCE MEMBER #1
The targets are approaching.

RESISTANCE LEADER
Take them out.

They release several boulders into the mail system where they begin sliding down the track toward their targets.

**BACK TO SCENE**

MAI
I thought my life was boring in the Fire Nation. But this place is unbearably bleak -- nothing ever happens!

Just then a RUMBLE begins to build. She and her mother pause as it gets louder.

ANGLE ON: The kids, still in their hiding place, look up to see the boulders heading straight for Mai and her mother!

Without hesitation, Aang jumps out of his hiding place and does an Airbending move with his staff and knocks the boulders off their path.

Mai spots Aang, makes a logical mistake, and assumes he’s involved in the assault.

GOVERNOR'S WIFE
The resistance!

Mai attacks him with the skill of a “pinpoint assassin”, using shuriken concealed in her sleeves. Aang quickly dodges them, and they embed in the wall behind him. He looks back at Mai, surprised. Katara and Sokka grab Aang and take off running.

**EXT. OMASHU BACK ALLEYS - CONTINUOUS**

The gang runs through the streets and alleys pursued by Mai and guards. They run through a large puddle which Katara bends into ice behind her. Guards slip and fall, but Mai takes advantage and slides, using it to gain speed. She launches something new -- two stilettos (or small arrows) one from each sleeve. Aang turns and whirling his staff like a helicopter we hear a THUNK THUNK, as the arrows stick into his staff.

Katara and Sokka join Aang, facing their attacker, but suddenly, the ground swallows the three of them up -- and they sink down into the earth.

Mai immediately returns to her bored persona.

MAI
(BORED SIGH)

She walks off.

**INT. UNDERGROUND CHAMBER - THAT MOMENT**

The kids are surrounded by a few resistance members including the two we saw earlier.

**EXT. CIRCUS TENT - DAWN**

**UPSIDE DOWN P.O.V.**

Upside down we see tents being set, strange hybrid elephant-camels and trained platypus bears being drilled on tricks. We see Cirque du Soleil-type performers warming up in various ways. Into the upside down frame walks Azula.

AZULA
Ty Lee, could that possibly be you?

TY LEE (O.S.)
Azula!

As we come out of the strange POV, we reveal it belonged to TY LEE, a peppy teenage girl in a fancy leotard doing a warm up stretch. She quickly comes out of her contorted pose to face Azula. Ty Lee bows respectfully.

TY LEE (cont'd)
It is so good to see you!

Now they HUG, like two old friends.

AZULA
Please don't let me interrupt your... whatever it is you were doing.

Ty Lee does a back bend so deep she's able to face Azula by peering up at her through her own legs, then she lifts one leg... (For a visual of this and other mind-bending feats of contortion, check out the website "www.mysticpixies.net.")

AZULA (cont'd)
Tell me, what is the daughter of a nobleman doing here? Certainly our parents didn't send us to The Royal Fire Academy for Girls to end up in... places like this.

As if on cue, a camel-elephant ambling by them farts (or burps or spits) loudly. Azula makes a face. Ty Lee pushes up onto her hands and rests her feet on her head.

AZULA (cont'd)
I have a proposition for you. I'm hunting a traitor -- you remember my old fuddy-duddy uncle, don't you?

TY LEE
Oh yeah, he was so funny!

AZULA
I would be honored if you would join me on my mission.

Ty Lee is caught off guard.

TY LEE
Oh I... would love to...

Ty Lee suddenly flips, lands on her feet, and faces Azula.

TY LEE (cont'd)
But the truth is I'm really happy here. I mean, my aura has never been pinker.

As if to demonstrate, she shows Azula her forearm.

AZULA
I'll take your word for it.
(beat)
Well, I wouldn't want you to give up the life you love just to please me.

Ty Lee bows.

TY LEE
Thank you, Azula.

She breathes a sigh of relief and then goes into a one-legged stretching pose.

AZULA
Of course, before I leave, I'm going to catch your show.

The ultra-graceful Ty Lee is knocked off-balance by Azula's unexpected reaction.

TY LEE
Umm, yeah, sure. Of course.

**INT. OMASHU - RESISTANCE SECRET MEETING PLACE - DAWN**

In the tiny, airless eaves of an abandoned building the gang is being briefed on the fall of Omashu by the Resistance: The last bastion of Omashun anti-occupation sentiment. The Resistance Leader has some disturbing news about King Bumi.

AANG
So is King Bumi with you guys? Is he leading the resistance?

RESISTANCE LEADER
Of course not! The day of the invasion, we readied ourselves for battle. We were prepared to defend our city -- to fight for our lives and for our freedom. But before we even had a chance...

The Resistance leader can’t say the word.

RESISTANCE LEADER (cont’d)
King Bumi surrendered.

Off Aang’s reaction...

**END OF ACT ONE**

## ACT TWO

**INT. OMASHU - RESISTANCE SECRET MEETING PLACE - DAY**

RESISTANCE LEADER
The day of the invasion I asked King Bumi what he wanted to do. He looked me in the eye and said:

**FLASHBACK**

Close up on King Bumi.

BUMI
I'm going to do nothing! (CRAZY LAUGHTER)

**BACK TO SCENE**

Aang shakes his head in disbelief.

RESISTANCE LEADER
It doesn't matter now. Fighting the Fire Nation is the only path to freedom, and freedom is worth dying for!

Aang, Katara, and Sokka react uncomfortably.

AANG
Actually, there is another path to freedom -- you could leave Omashu.

The Resistance members look at one another.

AANG (cont'd)
You're directing all your energy to fight the Fire Nation. But you're outnumbered, you can't win. Now's the time to retreat so you can live to fight another day.

RESISTANCE LEADER
You don't understand, they've taken our home and we have to fight them at <u>any</u> cost.

RESISTANCE MEMBER #2
I don't know, Yung -- living to fight another day is starting to sound pretty good to me.

RESISTANCE MEMBER #1
Yeah, I'm with the kid.

RESISTANCE MEMBERS
(MURMURING AGREEMENT)

The resistance leader looks around, realizing his people want to leave.

RESISTANCE LEADER
Fine. But there's thousands of citizens that need to leave. How are we going to get them all out?

Everyone turns to Sokka.

SOKKA
Suckers!

Off their looks.

SOKKA (cont'd)
No, "suckers" is the plan. You're all about to come down with a nasty case of pentapox.

**INT. OMASHU - VARIOUS ALLEYWAYS/HIDDEN SPOTS - DAY**

We see various shots around the city of resistance people helping Omashun citizens putting pentapus on their faces and arms, and removing them with a sucking sound to create the red pox marks.

**INT. OMASHU - ALLEYWAY OF RESISTANCE HIDEOUT - DAY**

The gang, Resistance leader, members, and a few ordinary citizens are covered in round, red Pentapus sucker marks. Sokka stands before them, giving a lesson on how to do a special zombie walk.

SOKKA
The marks make you look sick, but you got to act sick too -- you got to sell it!

A very old, decrepit looking man walks up and does an amazing performance.

OLD MAN
(PAINED MOANING)

SOKKA
Now that's what I'm talking about.

OLD MAN
Years of practice.

SOKKA
(to the crowd)
Okay, everyone into sick formation.

The crowd lines up. Katara notices Aang is not joining them.

KATARA
Aang, what are you doing? Aren't you coming with us?

AANG
No. I'm not leaving until I find Bumi.

Momo jumps on Aang. He plays with Aang's lips. Aang peels Momo off and puts him down.

AANG (cont'd)
Sorry, Momo. I'll feed you later.

Aang takes off.

**EXT. OMASHU TOWN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS**

Like in a zombie-movie, a few Pentapox-covered people stumble out into the square. Soon, more follow. Some shake violently, and fall to the ground foaming at the mouth. They have the zombie-walk down now. They do indeed look sick!

CROWD
(ZOMBIE GROANS AND MOANS)

Panicked soldiers try to keep order, but they can't bring themselves to get close to the 'plagued.' The sick advance, and the soldiers retreat. Guards sound an ALARM.

GUARDS
Plague! PLAGUE!

**EXT. GOVERNOR'S PALACE (BUMI'S OLD QUARTERS) BALCONY (OVER-LOOKING SQUARE) - CONTINUOUS**

The GOVERNOR, his wife, Mai, and Tom Tom observe the growing crowd in the square below. Tom Tom's mother holds her son's hand. Soldier #1 appears.

GOVERNOR
What is going on down there?

SOLDIER #1
I saw some kids yesterday who were sick with pentapox. It must have spread.

GOVERNOR
Pentapox! I'm pretty sure I've heard of that.

GOVERNOR'S WIFE
Oh, this is terrible!

SOLDIER #1
What should we do?

He watches the 'plagued' below scare the soldiers witless.

GOVERNOR
Drive them out of the city. But don't touch them! We have to rid the city of this disease.

Soldier #1 bows and goes to dispatch the news. The Governor's family is still engrossed in the scene. Mai offers her father a bowl of snacks (akin to popcorn at the movies).

MAI
Fire Flakes, Dad?

GOVERNOR'S WIFE
Oh, how awful.

Mai's mother covers her mouth and GASPS in horror, so distracted, she doesn't even realize she's let go of her son's hand. Free, Tom Tom wanders off into the palace alone.

**EXT. OMASHU - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY**

Aang runs through the now abandoned streets. As he rounds a corner, he is greeted by a familiar sight: a large, floppy-eared monster, chained to a crank which turns when he walks in a circle.

AANG
Flopsie!

Aang Waterbenders the water from Flopsie's trough onto the chains and freezes it. Then he hits it with his staff and it shatters. Flopsie vigorously slobbers him in thanks.

AANG (cont'd)
C'mon Flopsie, you got to help me find Bumi.

Aang climbs on his back.

AANG (cont'd)
Yip yip!

Flopsie doesn't move.

AANG (cont'd)
Oh, I guess that doesn't work with you. Let's go!

Aang pats him a couple times and Flopsie bolts.

**INT. GOVERNOR'S PALACE - DAY**

Unsupervised, Tom Tom plays with a stuffed Platypus Bear. A tiny face pops up in a window -- Momo! He spies a plate of lichees on table. He sneaks in and begins stuffing his face.

Tom Tom turns and sees Momo -- His dangling tail, his big ears, his funny way of eating -- He takes a last look at his bear and tosses it away. Momo is much better!

The baby catches Momo's twitching tail and YANKS.

MOMO
(A SHRIEK AND SURPRISED CHITTERING)

TOM TOM
(DELIGHTED LAUGHTER)

Tom Tom climbs up onto the table. He crawls after Momo, but Momo's greed gets the better of him: He won't abandon the lichees. As Momo tries to grab them, the baby grabs his paw. They go round and round the lichees. Finally Momo gathers some fruit and escapes out the window, but the baby follows him, tottering unsteadily, from ledge to rooftop, but miraculously never falling. Periodically he catches Momo's tail and screeches with delight. When they finally reach the ground, Momo turns to follow the "zombies" to freedom, as Tom Tom continues ambling after him.

**INT. CIRCUS TENT - EVENING**

A command performance has been arranged for Azula. She sits in a 'box' seat, a virtual throne, surrounded by her entourage. The circus master bows deeply to Azula.

CIRCUS MASTER
We're deeply honored to have the Fire Lord's daughter at our humble circus. Tell us if there's anything we can do to make the show more enjoyable.

AZULA
I will.

They watch as Ty Lee, high on a tightwire, balanced on “rola bolas” (boards on cylinders), adds more boards and cylinders to her pile as they are tossed up to her. It’s an incredible feat of balance.

AZULA (cont’d)
Incredible! Do you think she’ll fall?

CIRCUS MASTER
Of course not.

AZULA
Then wouldn’t it make it more interesting if you remove the net?

CIRCUS MASTER
(hesitant)
Uh... the thing is, the performers--

AZULA
You’re right, you’re right, that’s been done.
(getting an idea)
I know! Set the net on fire.

The circus master sees she won’t take no for an answer.

CIRCUS MASTER
Of course, Princess.

He sends a Firebending blast at the net, which catches and quickly spreads. (NOTE: The net is flaming but not destroyed by the fire.) High above on the tightrope, Ty Lee begins to SWEAT but despite the danger she is able to keep her balance and composure -- she continues her routine.

AZULA
Brilliant, just brilliant.
(get another idea)
Ooh -- what kind of dangerous animals do you have?

CIRCUS MASTER
Well, our circus boasts the most exotic assortment--

AZULA
Release them all!

He is horrified, but he has no choice. Balanced high atop a wire, we see beads of sweat on Ty Lee's face as she literally faces the performance of her life.

SMASH CUT TO:

**EXT. CIRCUS TENT - ESTABLISHING**

We see smoke escaping the tent, and we hear a CACOPHONY of circus animal noises, implying the complete chaos being unleashed within.

CUT TO:

**EXT. HILLSIDE OUTSIDE OMASHU - A HUNDRED FEET AWAY - MOMENTS LATER**

The celebration in the near distance, Aang sadly tells Katara and Sokka what happened.

AANG
We looked everywhere. No Bumi.

Katara gives Aang a long, comforting hug. Flopsie looks up at Sokka, expectantly. Sokka relents and gives Flopsie a comforting hug. Then Flopsie gives Sokka a big, sloppy lick. The resistance leader approaches.

RESISTANCE LEADER
We've got a problem. We just did a head count...

KATARA
Oh no, did someone get left behind?

RESISTANCE LEADER
No. We have an extra.

He indicates Tom Tom, who is still terrorizing Momo.

**EXT. GOVERNOR'S PALACE (BUMI'S OLD QUARTERS) BALCONY (OVER-LOOKING SQUARE) - NIGHT**

Two security guards stand in front of the Governor and his family. The Governor's wife is visibly upset. She sobs as Mai half-heartedly comforts her.

GOVERNOR
So, the resistance has kidnapped my son. Everything so clever, so tricky. Just like their King Bumi!

SOLDIER #1
What do you want to do, sir?

There is a beat as the governor considers.

**INT. CIRCUS TENT - TY LEE'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT**

Azula breezes into Ty Lee's dressing room and tosses a large sheaf of scary-looking orchids onto Ty Lee's dressing table.

AZULA
What an exquisite performance. I can't wait to see how you'll top yourself tomorrow.

Ty Lee doesn't skip a beat. This is not unexpected. She removes her tiara and smiles ironically in the mirror.

TY LEE
I'm sorry, Azula, but unfortunately there won't be a show tomorrow.

AZULA
Really?

Ty Lee hangs her tiara on a hook.

TY LEE
The universe is giving me strong hints that it's time for a career change.

She pulls her singed, spangled collar off, over her head.

TY LEE (cont'd)
I want to join you on your mission.

Azula's smile would give a crocodile a run for its money.

**EXT. HILLSIDE OUTSIDE OMASHU - RESISTANCE CAMPSITE - NIGHT**

Aang, Katara, Sokka, and the Resistance Leader are gathered together as Tom Tom crawls around cutely. He picks up Sokka's boomerang and puts it in his mouth.

SOKKA
No. Bad Fire Nation baby.

Sokka takes his boomerang away from Tom Tom. He immediately starts CRYING.

SOKKA (cont'd)
Oh, alright.

Sokka relents and gives his boomerang back Tom Tom who GIGGLES and flaps his arms happily.

KATARA
(to Tom Tom, baby talk)
You’re so cute.

RESISTANCE LEADER
Sure, he’s cute now, but when he’s older, he’ll join the Fire Nation army. You won’t think he’s so cute then. He’ll be a killer.

Tom Tom does something even more cute.

KATARA
Does that look like the face of a killer to you?

Just then, they hear the SQUAWK of a messenger hawk. Aang watches it land, hopefully.

RESISTANCE LEADER
A messenger hawk!

Aang takes the scroll from the hawk’s back and reads it.

AANG
It’s from the Fire Nation Governor. He thinks we kidnapped his son. So, he wants to make a trade. His son for... King Bumi.

Off Aang’s reaction.

**END OF ACT TWO**

## ACT THREE

**EXT. HILLSIDE OUTSIDE OMASHU - RESISTANCE CAMPSITE - DAWN**

Most of the camp is still asleep, as Aang gets ready to go. He starts toward the edge of camp -- only to find Katara, Sokka, and Momo waiting for him, also ready. Sokka straps on a special sling he's made. Katara holds the sleeping Tom Tom in her arms, resting his head on her shoulder.

Aang looks at them -- they are as resolute as he is.

SOKKA
You realize we're probably walking right into a trap.

AANG
I don't think so. I'm sure the governor wants his son back as much as we want Bumi.

Aang looks out at the beautiful dawn.

AANG (cont'd)
It's a new day. I have a good feeling about this.

SMASH CUT TO:

**EXT. OMASHU - THAT MOMENT**

Azula arrives in town, accompanied by Ty Lee. Soldiers salute and others fall to their knees, respectfully.

**EXT. GOVERNOR'S PALACE - CONTINUOUS**

Mai is waiting in front of the palace to formally greet princess Azula. Mai bows to Azula.

MAI
Please tell me you're here to kill me.

There is a short beat, then they both LAUGH and embrace.

AZULA
It's great to see you, Mai.

Ty Lee hugs Mai next.

MAI
I thought you ran off and joined the circus? You said it was your calling.

TY LEE
Well, Azula called a little louder.

AZULA
I have a mission and I need you both.

MAI
Count me in. Anything to get me out of this place.

**INT. GOVERNOR'S PALACE - BUMI'S OLD THRONE ROOM - LATER**

The Governor and his wife greet Azula.

GOVERNOR
I apologize, you've come to Omashu at a difficult time. At noon we're making a trade with the resistance to get Tom Tom back.

AZULA
Yes, I'm so sorry to hear about your son. But really, what did you expect by just letting all the citizens leave?

Azula rolls her eyes.

AZULA (cont'd)
My father has trusted you with this city and you're making a mess of things.

The governor bows low.

GOVERNOR
Forgive me, princess.

Azula nods.

AZULA
You stay here. Mai will handle the hostage trade so you don't have a chance to mess it up. And there is no more Omashu. I am renaming it in honor of my father: the city of New Ozai.

Azula turns and walks out, Ty Lee and Mai follow.

**EXT. OMASHU - NEAR THE TOP OF CITY - PLAZA - LATER**

In a location fit for this scene, the parties gather for the trade. Aang, Katara and Sokka are disguised as resistance members. Sokka carries Tom Tom (facing forward) in the Avatar version of a baby bjorn. (Go nuts with the comical Sokka/baby interaction.) Mai leads the Fire Nation delegation of Azula and Ty Lee. As they face off, a large crane swivels and lowers a huge metal box onto the scene. There is a hole cut out where we see Bumi's face.

BUMI
(CRAZY LAUGH) Hi everybody.

Upon seeing Bumi, Aang cracks a smile but is careful not to get too excited. Aang and Mai step forward to complete the deal.

MAI
You brought my brother?

AANG
He's here. We're ready to trade.

Mai nods, but at that moment, Azula interrupts.

AZULA
I'm sorry, but a thought just occurred to me. Do you mind?

MAI
Of course not, Princess Azula. What is it?

AZULA
We're trading a two-year-old for a king? A powerful Earthbending king. It just doesn't seem like a fair trade, does it?

Mai looks at Azula for a beat, then at her brother squirming cutely in Sokka's face. She makes up her mind.

MAI
You're right.
(to Aang)
The deal's off.

Immediately the crane begins lifting Bumi off the ground.

BUMI
Whooaahh! See you all later.

AANG
Bumi!

He runs forward to try to get him but immediately Azula creates a fire wall, blocking him. The crane lifts Bumi higher into the sky, swinging him far out of reach. Aang opens his glider and takes off after Bumi, flying above the flames. In the process, his hood (or hat) falls off, revealing his tattoos.

AZULA
The Avatar...
(smiles)
My lucky day.

As Aang flies after Bumi's box, Azula pursues him, deftly ascending scaffolding, etc.

**EXT. OMASHU - HIGH ABOVE THE CITY - SIMULTANEOUS**

Aang lands on top of Bumi's prison box, still being swung by the crane. (NOTE: Bumi's box is suspended such that he is lying horizontally.) Far below we see Azula coming after Aang, quickly climbing the scaffolding.

BUMI
Aang, is that you? Where did you come from?

AANG
Hang on, we're going to get you out of here.

Just then, Aang releases the chain holding Bumi's box and they fall fifty feet and land in one of the mail system chutes. They speed down the chute and right past Azula who is still climbing up. She turns her head, watching them whiz past her, an annoyed look on her face. She hops into a nearby mail cart and takes off after them.

Sokka and Katara turn to run, but Ty Lee does a flip in front of them and strikes an unusual martial arts pose. Katara strikes out with Waterbending but Ty Lee is able to avoid the strikes with her amazing acrobatic maneuvers. Mai releases a group of stilettos at Katara who quickly turns her whip into a protective ice sheet which the stilettos hit and shatter. Sokka flees in the other direction, protecting Tom Tom. (NOTE: This action scene should depict Katara holding off the threat of Ty Lee and Mai so that Sokka can make an escape with the baby.)

KATARA
We've got to get the baby out of here.

Reveal that Sokka has been furiously blowing on the silent bison whistle.

SOKKA
Way ahead of you!

**EXT. OMASHU MAIL SYSTEM - CONTINUOUS**

Aang and Bumi careen down the mail chute.

BUMI
Aang, stop your blowing for a minute.
(beat)
Now hold on just a-- AAAAAHHH!

AANG
(LAUGHING) It's just like old times, isn't it Bumi?

BUMI
Aang, I need to talk to you!

Bumi's voice is lost in the rumble of the dolly.

AANG
(mishearing him)
It's good to see you too!

Azula races towards them, blasting fire at them. There is a wild chase through the mail chute system with Azula attacking and Aang using Airbending to deflect some of her attacks and guide the Bumi dolly. (NOTE: This should be similar in speed and intensity to the 1.05 chase but with heightened danger and suspense.)

**EXT. OMASHU - NEAR THE TOP OF CITY - PLAZA - SIMULTANEOUS**

Katara continues her battle with Ty Lee and Mai. We see some seriously impressive Waterbending. But two opponents are too much and while Katara engages Mai, Ty Lee is able to close the gap and execute her specialized CHI BLOCKING technique. Katara slumps as her Waterbending move dissipates.

MAI
How are you going to fight without your bending?

She draws a three section staff, but before she can strike Katara, a boomerang knocks it out of her hand.

SOKKA
I seem to manage.

We see Sokka has arrived on Appa. Katara runs over and Sokka pulls her up onto Appa's head. They fly off. They look down and see Aang careening through a chute, Azula close behind.

KATARA
There's Aang!

SOKKA
We can catch him!

Appa BANKS to try and intercept Aang.

**EXT. OMASHU MAIL SYSTEM - MOMENTS LATER**

Aang sees Appa up ahead in their path.

AANG
Hang on Bumi -- our ride's here!

Aang does an Airbending move which launches them into the air as if from a ramp toward Appa. As Aang and Bumi approach Appa, Katara and Sokka duck and cover their heads.

KATARA/SOKKA
(SCREAMS)

But Aang and Bumi miss! They fly right over Appa and back into the mail system. Azula is still hot on their trail. She performs her snapping-hand fire-pinwheel move, sending a pinwheel of fire down the chute toward the Bumi box. The fire is about to catch up to Aang and Bumi, but then suddenly a huge stone wedge rises out of the mail chute and diverts the fire down another path. As Azula's cart rapidly approaches the wedge, she sees it at the last possible moment and leaps into the air in a perfect crane stance as her cart explodes into dust and rubble. She lands in a perfect leaning stance, skidding to a halt. She glowers as Aang and Bumi careen away to freedom.

**EXT. OMASHU MAIL SYSTEM - LOWER PART OF THE CITY - MOMENTS LATER**

AANG
You could Earthbend? All along?

BUMI
Well, they didn't cover my face.

He does an Earthbending move by scrunching his face, screeching the cart to a halt.

AANG
I don't understand. Why didn't you free yourself? Why did you surrender when Omashu was invaded? What's the matter with you, Bumi?

BUMI
Listen to me, Aang. There are options in fighting called jing. It's a choice of how you direct your energy.

AANG
I know, there's positive jing when you're attacking and negative jing when you're retreating.

BUMI
And neutral jing -- when you <u>do</u> nothing!

AANG
There are three jings?

BUMI
Well technically there are eighty-five, but let's just focus on the third. Neutral jing is the key to Earthbending. It involves listening and waiting for the right moment to strike.

AANG
That's why you surrendered, isn't it?

BUMI
Yes, and it's why I can't leave now.

Aang is disappointed.

AANG
I guess I need to find someone else to teach me Earthbending.

BUMI
Your teacher will be someone who has mastered neutral jing.
(MORE)

BUMI(cont'd)
You'll need to find someone who waits and listens before striking.

Suddenly, Momo lands on Aang's shoulder.

AANG
Hey Momo.

BUMI
Momo's mastered a few jings himself!

MOMO
(CHITTERS)

BUMI
Goodbye Aang. I'll see you when the time is right.

With a nose twitch Earthbending move, he shoots his cart back up the mail chute, leaving Aang alone. Appa flies in and Aang hops aboard. As Appa flies away, Aang looks back longingly at the city.

**EXT. OMASHU - PALACE - LATER**

Azula, Mai, and Ty Lee are getting ready to leave.

MAI
So we're tracking down your brother and uncle, huh?

TY LEE
(teasing)
It'll be interesting seeing Zuko again, won't it, Mai?

Mai LAUGHS but Azula doesn't crack a smile.

AZULA
It's not just Zuko and Iroh anymore. We have a third target now.

**EXT. GOVERNOR'S PALACE BALCONY (OVER-LOOKING SQUARE) - NIGHT**

We see the Governor holding his wife who is sobbing in his arms, completely despondent. Aang lands silently on the balcony. He takes Tom Tom from the bjorn. Tom Tom smiles up at him, a big string of drool hanging from his lip. Aang nudges him toward the doors. When Tom Tom spies his parents he breaks into a cute, screechy rant of babbling and arm-flapping.

The Governor and his wife run to meet him. His mother picks him up, while his father hugs them both.

Aang smiles as he watches Tom Tom’s reunion with his tearful parents -- Hanging, bat-like, upside down from a rafter.

**END OF SHOW**